

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00479 250837Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 AID-05 PC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 VO-03 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 L-03 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 DPW-01 DHA-02 /073 W
----- 123754

R 250758Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6117

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0479

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PPT, CVIS

SUBJECT: RESTRICTION ON TRAVEL TO LAOS FOR US CITIZENS

REF: BANGKOK 4177, STATE A-353

1. AT OUR SUGGESTION DEPARTMENT RECENTLY ISSUED TRAVEL ADVISORY (STATE A-353) STRONGLY URGING THAT PRIVATE VISITS OF AMCITS TO LAOS BE DEFERRED AND ADVISING POSTS THAT IT APPEARED VISAS WERE NOT BEING ISSUED FOR TOURIST TRAVEL TO LAOS AT THIS TIME. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SEE NO REASON TO URGE LAO EMBASSY IN BANGKOK TO CHANGE ITS POLICY ON ISSUING TOURIST VISAS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS NOW. WE DOUBT THAT QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY RAISED IN BANGKOK 4177 WILL ARISE IN FACT OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS. IN OUR JUDGMENT, LAO AUTHORITIES UNLIKELY TO GRANT NEW LAO ORDINARY PASSPORT TO ANY LAO CITIZENS WHO WISH TO GO AS "TOURISTS" TO U.S. WE HAVE NOT HAD APPLICATION FROM LAO CITIZEN FOR TOURIST VISA TO U.S. SINCE NEW LAO TRAVEL DOCUMENTS WERE ISSUED EARLIER THIS YEAR.

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2. BECAUSE OF NEW POLICY OF LAO EMBASSY IN BANGKOK, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION IF OUR MISSION IN BANGKOK CERTIFIES AS "OFFICIAL" TRIPS NOT PAID FOR BY USG TO LAOS AND MADE BY OUR COLLEAGUES IN THAILAND FOR ONLY INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THIS MISSION. HOWEVER, WE ASK THAT WE BE NOTIFIED OF SUCH TRAVEL IN ADVANCE AND ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

3. FOR PARIS AND HONG KONG: HEAD OF NEWLY CREATED CONSULAR AFFAIRS DIVISION OF MFA KHAMSY SALY TOLD CONSUL THAT MFA HAS RECENTLY ASKED FRENCH EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE TO NOTIFY FRENCH GOVERNMENT THAT LAO GOVERNMENT IS WITHDRAWING ITS AUTHORIZATION TO FRENCH EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES ABROAD TO ISSUE VISAS TO FOREIGNERS FOR TRAVEL TO LAOS. SALY DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE FOR THIS DIRECTIVE TO FILTER TO HONG KONG AND OTHER FRENCH POSTS, WHICH HAVE CONTINUED TO ISSUE VISAS TO AMCITS AND OTHERS FOR TOURIST TRAVEL TO LAOS.
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